



**STATEMENT OF PROCEEDINGS FOR THE
REGULAR MEETING OF THE
LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION FOR
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 739
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012
<http://lachildrenscommission.org>**

Monday, May 21, 2012

10:00 AM

AUDIO LINK FOR THE ENTIRE MEETING. (12-2299)

Attachments: [AUDIO](#)

Present: Chair Patricia Curry, Vice Chair Geneva Berger, Vice Chair Susan F. Friedman, Commissioner Carol O. Biondi, Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, Commissioner Dr. La-Doris McClaney, Commissioner Daphne Ng, Commissioner Steven M. Olivas Esq., Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, Commissioner Adelina Sorkin LCSW/ACSW and Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell

Excused: Vice Chair Dr. Sunny Kang, Commissioner Helen A. Kleinberg and Commissioner Dr. Harriette F. Williams

Call to order. (12-1559)

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curry at 10:05 a.m.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. Introductions of May 21, 2012 meeting attendees. (12-1560)

Self-introductions were made.

2. Approval of the agenda for May 21, 2012. (12-1561)

On motion of Commissioner Adelina Sorkin, seconded by Commissioner Sandra Rudnick, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang, Kleinberg, Ng and Williams being absent), this item was approved.

3. Approval of minutes from the meeting of May 7, 2012. (12-1562)

On motion of Commissioner Martha Trevino-Powell, seconded by

Commissioner Ann E. Franzen, unanimously carried, (Commissioners Kang, Kleinberg, Ng, and Williams being absent), this item was approved.

Attachments: [SUPPORTING DOCUMENT](#)

II. REPORT

- 4.** Chair's report by Patricia Curry, Chair for May 21, 2012. (12-1563)

Chair Curry presented a verbal report on the following:

- **Chair Curry attended the "Connecting Families and Communities Resource Fair" on May 19, 2012 hosted by Eric Martz Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS). The event celebrated the grand opening of the "Connections" drop-in center which will provide resources and training to current and former transitional age foster youth and families.**
- **Supervisor Molina submitted a substitute Board motion on May 15, 2012, ([Item No. 75-A](#)), regarding instructions to the Director of Children and Family Services with respect to the Emergency Response Command Post (ERCP).**
- **Supervisor Molina submitted a substitute Board motion on May 22, 2012, ([Item No. 19](#)), regarding an implementation plan that will clearly outline how the new Children's Village at the LAC+USC Medical Center can be used to serve as an outstation of the Department of Children and Family Services. DCFS executive team has spent several hours at the ERCP evaluating the current situation. Commissioners are invited to do the same and if interested DCFS will make the arrangements for a visit.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection (Commissioners Kang, Kleinberg, and Williams being absent), this item was received and filed.

III. PRESENTATIONS

5. Update by the Chief Executive Office's Self-Sufficiency Workgroup.

· Carrie Miller, Principal Analyst (Manager),
Service Integration Branch (12-2168)

Ms. Miller, Principal Analyst (Manager), Chief Executive Office, Service Integration Branch reported the following:

- **This past December 2011, a 56-item action plan that is being implemented across twelve County Departments and County affiliated agencies was completed. The plan is aimed to create an environment and partnership between the agencies to ensure youth are in a position to achieve self-sufficiency when they leave the child welfare system. The Workgroup defined self-sufficiency as youth between the ages of 0 to 24 years old that have been in the foster care or probation system. The following are four key areas that have been identified as essential criteria to achieve self-sufficiency:**

- 1. Permanency/Housing**
- 2. Education**
- 3. Career/Workforce Development**
- 4. Social/Emotional Well-Being**

The action plan's objective is to provide activities conducive to success in these key areas using existing resources. Some of the activities include:

- A referral system to Head Start type programs for children between the ages of three to four years old. This referral system is now being implemented by DCFS.**
- A data sharing system.**
- An expansion of educational programs for foster youth to additional school districts.**
- An expansion of the Departments of Mental Health and Probation's efforts across the multidisciplinary teams in making certain that comprehensive youth assessments are being done covering the key areas that ensures suitable placement.**

- **Partnering with Consumer Affairs Agencies to run credit checks on foster and probation youth to address or fix their credit issues. These efforts led to the development of a protocol that is now being evaluated by the State to prevent identity theft.**
- **The creation of a pilot program in partnership with Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) that will issue 2,000 Transit Access Pass (TAP) cards that will be usable for up to one year to eligible youth over the age of 18 that are no longer in the system. This program aims to help youth work on their self-sufficiency goals by providing them transportation to be used for purposes of education, employment, or connecting with family.**
- **The Workgroup is now looking at Phase II of the self-sufficiency initiative which focuses on institutionalizing service integration across the departments. Through this process, there will be additional workgroups created. Additional efforts have been made in the area of transitional housing and exploring DCFS and Probation's Youth Development Services (YDS) Sections for ideas to maximize their resources. Moving forward the Self-Sufficiency Workgroup will hold quarterly meetings starting this summer.**

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Miller added the following:

- **The Workgroup's plan to have the departments work together as a collective body will be more difficult, if the Probation Department is divided by Supervisorial District.**
- **Part of the Workgroup's action plan is to create subsidized employment for foster and probation youth that are eligible for the Independent Living Program (ILP) by partnering with other agencies and employers.**

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

6. **Update by the Education Coordinating Council.**
 - **Carrie Miller, Principal Analyst (Manager),
Service Integration Branch (12-2169)**

Ms. Miller reported the following:

- The Education Coordinating Council (ECC) has been working with the Board of Supervisors on the expansion of the Foster Youth Education Program (FYEP). As part of the FYEP, a pilot program was created and implemented in select school districts located in the First Supervisorial District. The pilot program placed social workers at high school campuses to work specifically with DCFS youth. The past three years of this program have resulted with 84% of foster care youth graduating from high school and 78% continuing onto higher education. With the success of the pilot program and through the use of funds allocated from the Title IV-E Waiver savings, the program is expanding in the upcoming 2012-2013 school year with the addition of one school district from each of the Supervisorial Districts. The expansion will include probation youth by utilizing Deputy Probation Officers that are currently based at school districts participating in the program.
- One of the key elements of the program is recovering school credits for youth with multiple school placements. A protocol has been developed for accurate credit recovery which includes a checklist with information that will help anyone working with the youth to recover school credits. By implementing this protocol in the past three years, over 1,100 school credits have been recovered by youth.
- The second edition of the FYEP protocol manual is being finalized. The manual is available on the ECC website and has been distributed to the Probation Department.
- The Truancy Task Force (TTF) focused on approaches that keeps youth out of the court system and prevents future truancy. The TTF dispersed a set of recommendations that has been adopted by Los Angeles City Council, Los Angeles Unified School District, and other key districts that will be implemented in the upcoming year.
- The ECC adopted a strategic plan in May of 2011.

In response to questions posed by the Commission, Ms. Miller added the following:

- In efforts to keep foster youth in their home school, school stability recommendations were adopted and are being implemented by DCFS, Probation, school districts participating in the FYEP through ECC, and the court system. In addition, the ECC also worked on legislation that addresses this youth in their home school, as well as issued for students transferring in the middle of the school year.

- The work being done under the self-sufficiency initiative will increase the number of kids moving on to higher education. Building self-sufficiency skills early on will bring success throughout the youth's education. The goal of the ECC is to eventually join the self-sufficiency and youth education programs for optimal results.
- The redesign of YDS is the arena for working with youth that have continued onto higher education. Offering a support system during the college years will prevent youth from dropping out of school.
- An effective assessment early on will uncover any learning disabilities or mental health issues the youth may have. Once an assessment is done, all departments will join to complete a comprehensive case plan that addresses the needs of the child and ensures resources are provided.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

Matters Not Posted

7. Matters not posted on the agenda, to be discussed and (if requested) placed on the agenda for action at a future meeting of the Commission, or matters requiring immediate action because of an emergency situation or where the need to take action arose subsequent to the posting of the agenda. (12-1567)

There were none.

Public Comment

8. Opportunity for members of the public to address the Commission on items of interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission. (12-1568)

There were none.

Announcements

9. Announcements for the meeting of May 21, 2012. (12-1570)

Chair Curry announced that Reverend Cecil L. Murray will no longer be a Commissioner on the Commission for Children and Families. Supervisor Ridley-Thomas appointed Daphne Ng to the Commission on May 15, 2012.

Commissioner Ng provided a brief background of her experience related to community and non-profit outreach.

After discussion, by common consent and there being no objection, this item was received and filed.

Adjournment

- 10.** Adjournment for the meeting of May 21, 2012. (12-1571)

The meeting was adjourned by Chair Curry at 11:00 a.m.